



Dutch Community News

Dutch Society
NEERLANDIA



Official Publication for the Dutch Community in Western Australia



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Thorn is a village in the municipality of Maasgouw, in the Dutch province of Limburg. It is located along the rivers Mease and Witbeek. It is known as 'the white village' for its white-washed brick houses in the centre of town. It used to be part of the Imperial Abbey of Thorn.

Read more about this fascinating place on pages 22 & 23.

Social Functions Calendar & Clubhouse Details

Below are the latest details of **events and activities** organised by Neerlandia and by the various Sub Clubs.

February 2024

Sun	4	<u>Neerlandia Sunday Cards Drive</u>	10am
Wed	14,28	<u>Bingo</u>	11am
Thurs	1,8,15,22,29	<u>Neerlandia Thursday Night Cards</u>	7pm
Thurs	8,22	<u>Neerlandia Seniors' Club</u>	10am
Sat	3,10,17,24	<u>Dutch Singers</u> Morley Windmills	10am
Sat	17	<u>Karneval Crazy Fancy Dress</u>	6:30pm
Sun	18	<u>Kids Carnaval</u>	2pm
Fri	23	<u>End of Month Borrel</u> LMRC Wembley	6pm
Sun	25	<u>Ice Skating/Biking</u>	2.15pm

March 2024

Sat	2,9,16,23,30	<u>Dutch Singers</u> Morley Windmills	10am
Sun	3	<u>Neerlandia Sunday Cards Drive</u>	10am
Thurs	7,14,21,28	<u>Neerlandia Thursday Night Cards</u>	7pm
Thurs	7,21	<u>Neerlandia Seniors' Club</u>	10am
Fri	22	<u>End of Month Borrel</u> LMCR Wembley	6pm

Important: The content of our magazine is compiled with great care. Nonetheless, the information may contain inaccuracies. Should you find any errors, please contact us.

Club details:

Neerlandia is using the Rhein-Donau Clubhouse for most of their activities.

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Webpage:

<https://www.dutchclubwa.com>

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Members on second last page

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Welcome to 2024

I wish everyone all the very best for a Happy, healthy and eventful year. Your Committee is certainly committed to bringing you lots of good and fun filled activities.

Our activities at the end of 2023 were full of happy moments. The Puzzeltocht was well attended and despite the technical challenge for our more senior members and the heat of the day, the clues and destinations

were full of fun enjoyed by all.

Our Christmas Lunch at the old club house was well attended and many delighted in seeing the inside of our old club house. The Dutch Singers sang Christmas Carols, Andre Rieu played in the background, the raffle saw some interesting items being given away. All in all, another fun filled afternoon.

Then the various sub clubs had their end of year celebrations. The Seniors received a surprise visit by Sinterklaas. See the report on page 10.

Sadly, the Biljart Club has decided to fold after the passing of Piet Leeftang.

On the 28th of January, our annual Rottneest Trip happened. A report on this event will undoubtedly appear in next month's magazine.

The Committee hopes you like your events calendar for 2024. A fair degree of attention is paid to the creation of this calendar in both the photos of places in The Netherlands but also ensuring as many events are noted on the calendar. This year, we purposely avoided including all events we are thinking of, as some of these may not occur, be transferred to another day, or may not have been thought of as yet. The back of the Calendar is always an interesting place to create something unique and typically Dutch. We hope these thoughts and ideas meet with our members' approval.

Just like last year, we are very pleased with the number of members who have already renewed their membership as well as some very generous donations. On behalf of your Committee,

I say a big THANK YOU!

John (Jan) Zwartkruis, President.

The Tivoli Christmas matinée - 12 Nov 2023

About 35 members were entertained by the Tivoli Club at their heritage listed theatre in Applecross. Lots of well known Christmas carols were sung, which allowed the audience to join in. There were dance routines, gymnastics, comedy and vibrant colour in their costumes. Then there was the traditional Chicken & Chips for lunch during interval, all served by our performers. It sure felt really good to be treated as a special guest. Whenever the next Tivoli show is advertised for our members, I would encourage you to come along and experience some good old fashioned Vaudeville theatre.

Neerlandia Merchandise

Many members have bought merchandise like a polo shirt, bucket hat, cap or apron. Likewise, many have worn their apparel to club activities or to an event. Goods are still available. If you would like to purchase one or more items, please call John Zwartkruis on 0434 920 252 or via Email: terjohz@gmail.com

Neerlandia Secretary

If you can operate a laptop and you are keen to record of items discussed at our Committee meetings or AGM, and you have time on every 2nd Tuesday of the month, you have the skills to be our secretary. WE NEED YOU!! Please step forward and offer your services and be part of a very vibrant and fun filled committee.

New Ideas

If you have new ideas, suggestions, please send them through. Your Committee is always ready to hear any suggestions made by our members. Just by way of an example, a member recently commented on a Dutch game they played at home. This made us think that may we should have this game available at our next Games afternoon/evening.

Neerlandia is OUR club, and WE ALL can make a CONTRIBUTION, be it small or LARGE.

NEERLANDIA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

**Sue Fishlock
Lorraine Gilroy
Dirk Diepenveen**

Autopuzzeltocht 2023



On Saturday November 25th, nineteen teams ranging in ages from 7 months to 90 years, arrived at the Morley Windmills grounds raring to go for the annual Autopuzzeltocht car rally. After receiving their welcome pack including a car flag and some cold water for the hot day, they awaited further instructions. Everyone gathered in the front room where the excitement was



palpable.

This year the rally team had designed the rally with a more modern approach and so the instructions were received electronically by the teams with their first clue arriving after the safety precautions and general introduction speech.



Windscreen Vipers



The Quincey Promes



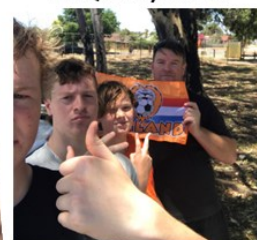
Our Mothers Daughters



Unfortunately Peanut Butter



Rory the Racing Car



Sack Attack



Laot gaon dae wage



Escaped Prisoners



Familie van Kinderen



De Geuzen



The Brady Bunch



Ready, set...GO!

The Sleuths



The Crystal Ladies



Blanco

Autopuzzeltocht 2023

The first stop of the day was out to Guildford, to the Dutch shop where teams perused all the delectable Dutch products available. This was the first of the random choice allocations of the day, which added some interest and luck to the accumulation of points depending on which item the team chose to purchase. There were also tricky questions which appeared further down the track after subsequent stops, to determine if teams had been paying attention or taken photos that included pieces of information. This meant that some teams even doubled back on their tracks to make sure that they could obtain all the answers.



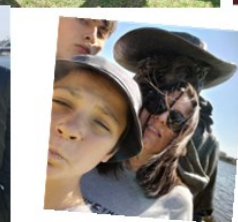
The journey of Dutch related locations continued with the new location at Town of Vincent library which contains the Neerlandia Mies Dutch book collection, the original Neerlandia club house in Wembley, a house painted with the colours of the Dutch flag and then towards the city. Further locations included the sites of multiple windmills, the Willem de Vlamingh statue and even the original Perth airfield.



Take the opportunity whilst you can to stock up on some dutch treats along the way



Shaking hands with a statue!



3 of De Vier Muskietiers team



Hatseflats Team



Bonus points were awarded for asking strangers on the street to do a dance move with you

Autopuzzeltocht 2023



The extreme heat of the weather on the day posed some challenges to both participants and organisers alike. Some quick thinking and speedy organisation allowed the final location to be changed from an outdoor location in South Perth to an indoor airconditioned location for the final get together. The sausage sizzle and drinks provided by the club, along with the assortment of delicious plates of food bought by our lovely teams were enjoyed by all seventy people. It was a great chance for everyone to catch up and compare notes of their adventures of the day.



The teams did a great job recreating the famous Beatles Abbey Road album cover



The Backup Singers



Striking a pose at the old clubhouse in Wembley



One of the Event team organiser Helen (middle) and helpers Hanny & Toon



One of the Event team organisers Melissa

Autopuzzeltocht 2023

The teams lucky enough to win a place at the end of the Autopuzzeltocht were, in first place The 4 Gens Team (comprising of four generations in one car!), in second place was Rory the Racing Car Team (last years' Autopuzzeltocht 2022 winners), in third place was Laot Gaon Dae Wage Team, in fourth place the Hatseflats Team and the wooden spoon prize went to The Sack Attack team. All winners received various dutch goodies in a lovely reusable carry bag, see pictures below displaying the prizes awarded on the day.



1st place prizes for the 4 Gens Team



2nd place prizes for Rory the Racing Car Team



3rd place prizes for Laot gaon dae wage Team



4th place prizes for Hatseflats Team



Autopuzzeltocht 2023



The Wooden spoon award went to the Sack Attack Team



Going through the answers to the bonus questions with Rod & Machiel, the Event team organisers at the end destination, the Hensman Park Tennis Club in South Perth



The teams are already looking forward to finding out where the Puzzeltocht will take them in 2024. Our thanks to the car rally organising committee Helen, Rod, Machiel and Melissa with a particular mention to our newest member Rod who spent countless hours designing the digital process and providing IT support. After consultation with various participants, the next Puzzeltocht will be a combination of strategies and will include both paper and online submission to allow for the ongoing enjoyment of all teams. Thank you Neerlandia for sponsoring this event.



Jan & His Girls



Unfortunately Peanut Butter



4 Gens



Rory the Racing Car



Escaped Prisoners



Laot gaon dae wage

De Geuzen

Report on the Klaverjas Club

The third competition for 2023 was completed on Thursday the 7th December. Competition continued to be fierce right to the end, with the top player remaining in their place without any serious challengers. However, 2nd and 3rd places continued to be an up and down tussle between two players with the lead changing on 4 occasions over the last 8 weeks. Our breakup party, where the prizes for the 3rd competition were handed out, was on the 14th of December. The prize winners were as Follows; -

1st Place with 73,877 points - **Jan Zwartkruis**
- 31 Marsen but ineligible for this prize.

2nd Place with 70,375 points - **Freda Hovingh**
- 25 Marsen.

3rd Place with 68,700 points - **Elly Schenkelaars** - 28 Marsen but ineligible for this prize.

Marsen Prize with 26 Marsen and 4th with 67,332 points - **Keith Vermeulen**.

Average Score - 66,814 points. Closest with 66,961 points - **Margaret Bosland**

Bolivia players prize went to **Thea Gorter**.

The last Sunday Card Drive took place on Sunday the 10th of December. As this date was moved from the 3rd December due to it clashing with the André Rieu screening at Innaloo Cinema, all but one important communication had been made. I overlooked letting the RDC know of the change, and this became a slight embarrassment when we turned up almost at the same time as the Rifle Club, who had booked the Karl's Bar for their Christmas wind-up starting at 12:00 noon. This difficulty was soon amicably resolved by us moving to the Edelweiss Hall. However, we needed two of the square tables, which the Rifle club had preferred for seating their members. Having helped move three trestle tables out of the Beer Garden and setting them end to end on one leg of their "U" shape setting, it also gave them the extra 3 or 4 seats they needed, which if retaining those 2 square tables, would not have provided. So, a win for both of our respective groups.

We had just 8 players, so the 2 tables were just enough. A long-time absent player in Jan Lagerweij returned to enjoy playing the game with old friends. Competition was fierce but friendly with lots of laughter being heard. The day had to be cut short as the taxi for Jan Lagerweij turned up at 2 o'clock, just as the 4th round had started. Jan was reticent about leaving as he had been enjoying the game. However, as he had pre-booked the taxi for his return trip home, he had little choice than to leave.

The eventual winners were:

1st Prize: - **Piet Segers - 5,471 points.**

2nd Prize: - **Henk Smit - 5,243 points.**

3rd Prize: - **Elly Schenkelaars - 5,065 points.**



Thursday Night Cards resumes on Thursday 1st of February. Arrive around 7:00 PM and play commences at 7:30 PM. Membership is only \$2.00/week. If you would like to learn how to play this traditional Dutch game, played at home and in "de Kroeg" (pub), come along and we will give you a learning experience that will allow you to play this game with family & friends.

Next Sunday Card drive is on Sunday 4th February. Doors open 10:30 AM & play commences at 11:00 AM. Neerlandia Members \$12.00. Non-Members \$15.00. If you would like to learn how to play this traditional Dutch game, played at home and in "de Kroeg" (pub), come along and we will give you a learning experience that will allow you to play this game with family & friends.

The Seniors' Club News

The very last Seniors day for 2023 was on Thursday the 14th of December. It was a warm day, yet nearly every member was present. It was a wonderful start with a cup of coffee or tea, accompanied by a piece of banket staaf, made by Tilly Stülcbauer and a jam filled donut on account of John Maarssen's 90th Birthday on the 18th of December. Thank you to both Tilly & Nelly & John Maarssen for providing us this wonderful addition to our morning cuppa.

Today was also the day of our Jumbo Raffle. In addition to our usual raffle prizes, members were able to bring from home items they no longer needed or wanted, provided they were still in working order, and pantry items were still within their "use by" date. Many items were brought along, which included a Delft Blue tile, jigsaw puzzles, sunglasses, books, and other nick nacks. Janice Raffaele had baked several Christmas fruit cakes, and these were well received by those who chose to take one home. Thank you, Janice that was a valuable contribution to our raffle.

As the kitchen was undergoing those long awaited renovations, everyone was advised to bring along their lunch from home. Some preferred to order a Subway lunch. Afterwards, we served every member a Peters Drumstick. This has been our practice since the beginning of November, when the kitchen renovations started.

Well, well, well, there was a surprise in store for everyone. After lunch, we received a visit from Sint Nicolaas. Everyone was both surprised and overjoyed by his visit. Of course, everyone wanted a photo with the Sint. It was as though everyone had brought themselves back into their childhood years and wanted that special moment with Sinterklaas. It proved to be the highlight of the day.



Then came the Jumbo Raffle. This went smoothly until we ran into multiple “redraw” requests as many had already won 2 prizes. We changed gears and invited those who hadn’t yet won a prize. Once this was completed, those who had only won one prize could go and select their second. After that, tables were chosen at random to go and select their 3rd prize. Thus, it was so that everyone who was present had at least two, three or more prizes to take home.

But then the final surprise was the handing out of the Christmas Parcel. It certainly was filled with wonderful Dutch treats. ▀



EDITORIAL

To resume where Pieter Diedrich Leeftang finished will not be easy, since he has done such an excellent job for 24 years. Pieter raised the level and yes *‘When you compare our Magazine to those produced by other Dutch Clubs around Australia and New Zealand, it proved to be there is not one that stands out as a true competitor.’* These were the words from our President John Zwartkruis eulogy, he continued with: *‘Our magazine is shared in the Staff Room of the Dutch Embassy in Canberra and that of the Dutch Consul offices in Sydney. We have heard comments that the arrival of our magazine is eagerly anticipated each month. This success is very largely due to dedication to excellence Pieter gave to our magazine. His work has set a very high standard that those of us that follow in his footsteps have to live up to.’*

My name is Peter van der Wedden and I have taken the task upon me to continue the standard Pieter set. I have been told these are very big shoes to fill, but I will do my best and with the experience being the technician plus editor of our radio broadcasts from Dutch Community Radio, it will work. I am driven by doing the best I can, which I had to do when I operated my weighing equipment calibration company for 34 years. Yes precision, it needs to be spot on!

This will now give us the opportunity to create a magazine by our members, since I am only the editor. Requests are for the members to tell me their stories they like to have included in the Neerlandia magazine. This is your chance to have your say and tell your fellow members. Of course, the usual articles will stay such as reports on our activities, puzzles and the odd Dutch jokes.

I would like to thank the Dutch Society Neerlandia for giving me the opportunity to be the editor for this wonderful magazine, locally issued our very own Dutch Community News publication for the Dutch Community in Western Australia. I hereby acknowledge the help from our proofreaders, since without them it would be impossible to present the high standard of this magazine.

Thank you.

Peter van der Wedden, Editor.

Northern lights a rare sight in the skies above The Netherlands!

The Northern Lights, an atmospheric phenomenon rarely seen in The Netherlands, were visible over large parts of the country in late February 2023.



Spectacular colour display above Terschelling

Sightings were recorded in Drenthe, Groningen, Gelderland and Friesland as well as the Wadden Islands.

The Northern Lights, or the aurora borealis, are created when energized particles from the sun slam into the Earth's upper atmosphere at extremely high speeds. The Earth's magnetic field redirects them to the North and South Pole, creating the waves of coloured light.

~Article sourced by HL from www.dutchnews.nl



Views above Friesland



On the dyke near Lauwersoog

The following Members will celebrate their Birthday during the month of February 2024. We wish them all a very Happy Birthday.

John	Ottes
Janice	Rafaele
John	Pericles
Marina	Bull
John	Zwartkruis
Gerda	Indrisie
Robert	More
Hazel	Potts
Ida	van der Kooij
Tony	Deurloo
Elly	Schenkelaars
Adeline	van Dijk
Alida	Reitzenstein
Anthony	Janssen
Sandra	de Lange
Henk	Broerse
Jenny	Kievit
Thijs	Gorter
Tinie	Deugd

If your birthday is not mentioned, or you would like to change the details, that can be arranged.

To make changes you need to contact Neerlandia membership by sending an email to:
membership@dutchclubwa.com

In Memoriam

Passed away on December 23rd, 2023

Pieter Jan de Geeter

Member of Neerlandia

Sincere condolences to Paul de Geeter and family, from the Neerlandia Committee and the many Sub Clubs

Passed away on December 30th, 2023

Martha (Matty) Jeanette Mentz

Member of the Dutch Singers and a past player of the Bolivia/ Jokeren team of Thursday night Cards.

Sincere condolences to Eric, Bruce, Kelly, Sam, and Isabella, from the Neerlandia Committee and the many Sub Clubs



DE BOEKHOEK



We wensen iedereen een plezierig nieuwjaar met veel gelegenheid voor het het lezen van goede boeken.

Wij, Machiel en Lianna, zijn nog druk bezig met het vertalen van de Nederlandse titels van boeken die binnenkort geleend kunnen worden uit de Neerlandia “Mies” Bibliotheek in de City of Vincent Library, 99 Loftus Street, Leederville. Website www.library.vincent.wa.gov.au

Inmiddels blijven wij lezen, boeken kopen en erover schrijven zodat jullie op de hoogte blijven van nieuwe titels die maandelijks toegevoegd worden aan de reeds bestaande Nederlandse titels die door de bibliotheek in de City of Vincent verwerkt worden. Waar mogelijk geven we ook achtergrond info over de auteur(s).

Het boek voor de maand februari heeft als titel **“Het vergeten verhaal van een onwankelbare liefde in oorlogstijd”**. Dit boek is geschreven door Charles den Tex en Anneloes Timmerije.

Lienke en Guus Hagers hebben in elkaar de liefde van hun leven gevonden. Als de Tweede Wereldoorlog ook Nederlands-Indië in zijn greep krijgt, verliezen ze alles wat ze hadden, en elkaar. Hij is een van de beste gevechtsvliegers van de Indische Luchtvaart en wordt voor een korte missie naar Australië gestuurd. Voor hij terug kan, valt Japan Indië binnen en wordt Lienke gevangen genomen. Drie jaar lang vecht de stille, onverschrokken vliegenier om te kunnen terugkeren naar Java, naar zijn vrouw. Alles wat hij doet, doet hij om haar weer te vinden. Daardoor raakt hij onverwacht verstrikt in een vuil politiek spel.



Mooi, meeslepend en vooral goed lezend verhaal over een stuk van de tweede wereld oorlog waarover bij de lezer wellicht niet zoveel bekend was. Ondanks dat het een roman is krijgt de lezer toch veel informatie over hoe de tweede wereld oorlog zich afspeelde rond Indië en Australië.

Bron: bol.com

Meer informatie over de auteurs:

Anneloes Timmerije: www.anneloestimmerije.nl/bio/

Charles den Tex: [https://charlesdentex.nl](http://charlesdentex.nl)

Heb jij onlangs een goed, gezellig of interessant boek gelezen? Is jouw favoriete boek geschreven door een Nederlandse auteur en gepubliceerd na 2000? Dan is dat boek wellicht een aanrader voor de “Mies” bibliotheek van de Dutch Club! Laat het ons weten.

Een hartelijke groet van

Machiel: mvdstelt@gmail.com

Lianna: lianna_parker@bigpond.com



Some facts about The Netherlands

The flag of the Netherlands is red, white and blue; just turn the French one, 90 degrees to the left.
Orange is the Netherlands' national colour because of the house of Orange, the Dutch royal line.
The Netherlands is the best country for children to live in (Unicef report).
Only in The Netherlands, about 94% of people speaks English as a 2nd language. The highest in the world.
The Netherlands has the highest concentration (per capita) of museums..
Amsterdam has 1,281 bridges (more than Venice) and is entirely built on old wooden piles.
The Netherlands is one of the most densely populated countries in the world.
Tap water is of excellent quality. No need buying water bottles.
Places of worship can be found all around the country even though the Dutch are quite secular; only 20 percent of residents attend services on a regular basis.
In the Netherlands there are 10 times as many bikes as cars with over 15,000 km of cycle tracks.
Statistically, Dutch are the tallest people in Europe.
Eye contact and criticism are to be expected when chatting with a person.
Almost all Dutch people can swim, skate and ride a bike.
The Dutch always consult their agenda and do not appreciate "surprise" visits.
They are the world's second biggest coffee drinkers.
The Dutch are not conversation-starters. However, they will respond immediately and rather eagerly when addressed.
Dutch citizens take their own bags to the supermarket to pack their groceries.
Dutch ladies have to get kissed three times (right-left-right) on the cheek. Expats may get by with shaking hands though.
The Dutch enjoy one of the longest average life spans in the world.
The Dutch were the first Europeans to discover Australia and New Zealand.
The Netherlands is the second largest investor in the US.
The Netherlands is the world's first producer and exporter of tulips.
The Netherlands is the second largest agricultural exporter in the world. Also, it is the world's main producer of peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers.
The Hague is dubbed "the legal capital of the world" since five international courts are located there.
Words such as "dollar" and "Yankee" have Dutch roots - just like 4.5 million Americans.
Same-sex marriage and euthanasia are legal (since 2001 and 2002 respectively).
Prostitution is considered legal as long as prostitutes are at least 18 and clients at least 16 years old.
Only coffee shops are allowed to sell soft drugs. Citizens can grow their own though.
Orange carrots were bred in the Netherlands in the 16th century in honour of the house of Orange. Before

then they were white, yellow, black, purple or red.

The Netherlands is a founding member of NATO, the EU and the OECD.

The Dutch healthcare system is (considered) one of the best in the world.

40% of Dutch territory is below sea level.

1,000+ Original Windmills still exist.

The Dutch tend to call any elevation in their flat environment a berg or at least a bergje - a small mountain or rather a mound, also when it is just one meter (3.3 ft) high.

Holland's soft subsoil has an advantage; cables, tubes and pipes can be neatly hidden underground. Have you seen any telephone poles around?

There are some 10,000 houseboats in the Netherlands and over 2,400 in Amsterdam alone.

Amsterdam grew around a 13th century dam in the Amstel river, its most famous and striking feature is its canals (grachten), which gave the city the nickname "Venice of the North" and, in 2010, also Unesco World Heritage status.

Keukenhof means "kitchen garden," originally being a castle garden where vegetables and herbs were grown for the kitchen. It was turned into a more formal garden in the 1850s, and by 1949 into the now-famous annual flower show.

The world's earliest public transport could be found in the 17th century Dutch Republic, where passenger boats would leave for certain destinations at fixed hours, and people would know the arrival time at their destination.



~ Article sourced by PW from Dutch Australian Community

Christmas Lunch - Sunday 26th November 2023

Around 120 members and their guests attended our Christmas Lunch in the Saffron Restaurant & Banquet, in Cambridge Street, Wembley, indeed, our former club house. The tables were invitingly decorated as was the room. The Dutch Singers were ready to sing Christmas Carols once everyone had arrived. Many members were in awe of how

beautiful our old club house looked, and many memories were revived during conversations.

The President provided a welcome address and once he had completed this task, the entrée was served and enjoyed by all. André Rieu's Christmas at his home was playing in the background. His music added to the warm environment or, rather, the room was full of "Gezelligheid".

Once the entrée had been consumed, the Dutch Singers sang their first group of carols, and everyone was invited to sing along. This set the scene for a most

enjoyable afternoon. As everyone was engrossed in conversation, it was hardly noticed that the program was falling out of sync due to the delay in the main course being served. Not that this mattered as everyone was having a good time. The Dutch Singers were scheduled to sing their second group of Christmas Carols in between the main course and dessert. However, André Rieu and his orchestra had already performed many of the songs in their repertoire; therefore they were relieved to be able to remain seated.

The President & Treasurer then combined to draw our major raffle. This time however, they mixed it up. Prizes were awarded at random and not such that all the bigger prizes were left to last. This meant that people could get lucky to win a major prize either early or in the middle of the draw. The tables had been adorned with yet another set of placemats with drawings made by that famous Dutch Artist, Anton Pieck. Members and their guests were able to take these placemats home, which was once again, well received. All in all, the afternoon was a great success and enjoyed by all. What can we deliver for our Christmas Lunch this year?

John Zwartkruis,
President.



The Dutch Radio



Although it is February when you read this newsletter, the volunteers of the DCR would like to wish you all a magical, peaceful and as healthy as possible 2024. During the first days of this year, I have been tidying my Dutch Community Radio files that have been accumulating over the years and it appears that I have been writing 3-monthly articles for the Neerlandia magazine for over 10 years. In one of those news flashes, I wrote: *'Our dedicated volunteers, who prepare and present the program on a weekly basis, are very much aware that we need to listen to you, our listeners, when we want to make the programs fun and enjoyable for everyone. Often, we get feedback that the music we broadcast is not to the taste of those who prefer a more modern genre. However, when we put*

a request on air that is different to the 'normal' selection, we get reactions from listeners, stating they don't want to listen to this hullabaloo and have turned the radio off.' Since that moment in time, our team has been listening to your request and musical wishes and we have made many positive changes.

Every week we aim to bring a different topic. The first Sunday of the month is unique, and brought together by Peter. He puts together a brilliant selection of music that everyone can enjoy. The second Sunday is currently the brainchild of Margaret, who prepares a playlist of marvelous Dutch artists with a more modern twist. On the third Sunday, we bring you music from the past, currently the 1970s, which hopefully brings back good memories for all of us. And Robrecht's Radio Rubriek is the final broadcast of the month, with a unique sound produced by our very dedicated Robrecht. He brings a different repertoire by Dutch artists and events related to cabaret.



Yet, with all the effort our volunteers are making, there are still numerous people with a Dutch background, who are not aware that there is a group producing a weekly broadcast of 90 minutes in the Dutch language. During the 'Nieuwjaarsduik' at the Floreat Beach on the first of January, Peter and I went along and we spoke to many attendees. We were flabbergasted to hear so many people say: *'Dutch Radio? Didn't know there was such a thing.'*

So, for everyone who doesn't know how to listen to our programs; we broadcast on Sunday, from 16:30hrs, via Radio Fremantle on the FM band at 107.9 Mhz. This makes our programs accessible for many, just before dinner. But if this time doesn't suit you, it is possible to listen online at any time you like via our website www.dutchradio.com.au

There is also the possibility for you to produce and present your own program, as a once off or more often. Do you have a passion for music and fancy to give radio a try? This might be your chance. It is very fulfilling. If you like to give it a 'Go', get in touch with the DCR by sending an email to dcr@dutchradio.com.au 'en kom het een keertje uit proberen'.

Let the music brighten your day and take care.

Karin Eastwood.



Monday 26 November 2023 was a sad day for the Dutch Community and beyond. That day was the funeral of esteemed and beloved Pieter Leeflang.

The reception room of the funeral parlour was crowded with those who, over the years, had been touched by Piet's personality, his humbling humanity, his organisational ability, his insight and knowledge, and most of all his enthusiasm and never-ending energy in living.

Joke, Pieter's widow, welcomed each guest who arrived and shared a word with everyone. So many people came to pay their last respects, yet the gathering felt intimate. The overall feeling, next to the heavy sadness of having lost a great man, was the utter disbelief of his sudden passing, a world without Pieter.

The ceremony was a perfect tribute to Pieter and many of us learned more about this incredible man when we listened to Pieter and Joke's son Anthony who delivered a beautiful, extensive and amusing obituary of his and his sister Vera's father.

John Zwartkruis, current President of the Dutch Club, spoke comprehensively about Pieter's initiatives, energy and timeless efforts to found Dutch Society Neerlandia WA and to keep it running. His last position within the Club was of course that of Editor, a position he had held since 1996.

In both obituaries it became obvious how Pieter, through his married life, could count on the loyal and strong support of Joke whose work behind the scenes was not always noticed but very present. What followed was a slide show, an incredible collection of Pieter and Joke's lives; the variety, the excitement, the joy they shared over the years since getting married in 1959. Soft giggles were heard when photos appeared of Pieter with "Elvis" hair or Joke holding an Orangutan as if it was their third child.

When the guests at the funeral were invited to place a twig of rosemary on Pieter's coffin, it soon appeared how many people had turned up to pay their last respect to a remarkable man.

After the warm and intimate service, guests were invited to join the family for a wake at the Rhein Donau Club. This was a perfect opportunity for everyone to exchange a few personal words with both Joke, Anthony, Vera and Leeflang family.

The atmosphere was respectfully relaxed; a gathering that Pieter would have enjoyed.

And so Monday 26 November ended, and the emptiness started. Life goes on, the saying goes and it does, of course it does. Yet, life without Pieter Leeflang is something that those who knew him have to get used to and that will take a while. RIP Pieter, je was een bijzonder mens.

On behalf of the Dutch Club Neerlandia WA.

Lianna Parker,
Life Member.



UNOX Nieuwjaars Duik

May I wish you 'A brilliant New Year' together with this great story of togetherness on the first day of this year.

Many Dutchies and their family and friends, had a super start on New Year's Day when they met at the Floreat Surf Life Saving Club just after noon. All gathered near the Floreat kiosk just off the parking area, where Freek and Maria welcomed everybody. Those who, via the link to all events in/perth/unox-nieuwjaarsduik-perth, had advised organisers that they would attend, received a free Unox beanie. There was a lot of laughter and excitement when many caught up with friends they hadn't seen for a while. The atmosphere was jolly, all were ready to wash away the year that had been and welcome 2024 by diving into the sea. The Dutch Community Radio did some interviews with Dutch newcomers and Old-hands. It became clear you can take a Dutchie out of the Netherlands, but they will always keep their 'Dutchness'. Passersby felt they were momentarily in the Netherlands and reacted pleasantly surprised. After a while Freek guided everyone onto the beach. There the Floreat Surf Life Saving Club lifeguards were waiting, and it was time for a great photo opportunity.



At 1pm sharp everyone ran into the sea; the swell was pretty strong but our determination to swim was stronger. After a super swim, some more chatting, all went back to the grassed area near the kiosk where another treat was waiting. Actually, we had to wait a while for it to arrive, as the 600 poffertjes ordered from Dominos by Machiel, were a little lost at first. But they found us in the end. So how is an event like this made possible? It started early last year when an email was received from Allard Komdeur, from Australia Expert. He wanted to know if people in Perth were interested to have a Nieuwjaarsduik again on the first of January 2024. Freek said yes, I said yes and we got into contact with the Floreat Surf Life Saving Club, they said yes as well, and Maria came also on board. Allard organised a whole heap of Unox beanies sponsored by Unox. The beanies were posted to West Australia and the event was advertised with the help of Reno, also from Australia Expert. The outcome is now well known, thanks to this article.

The organisers are ready to start planning the event for 2025. All we would like from you is to stay enthusiastic and to spread the word, so that next year we will have even more Dutchies there on that Floreat Beach. There might even be an event organiser amongst us? We love to hear from you.

Thank you for being so lively and bubbly.
Karin Eastwood.

Beat the heat this summer with some Ice Skating fun!



Sunday 25th February 2024

Ice biking and Ice skating at Cockburn Ice Arena

Followed by Dinner at the Cabin 401 Restaurant

From 2:15pm onwards

For details see the Events page on our website

WWW.DUTCHCLUBWA.COM

RSVP by 15/2/24 to mvdstelt@gmail.com



CARNIVAL 2024

This February the Rhein Donau Club in Myaree is celebrating Carnaval on the weekend of Saturday the 17th and Sunday the 18th February, with the Sunday event being a special Kids Carnaval. As members of the Neerlandia Dutch Club we have all been invited to join in the festivities.

What is Carnaval?

Carnaval is traditionally a pagan festival linked to the Catholic Church and it is to mark the start of lent for Catholics. To celebrate the festival in the Netherlands, it is generally the Southern parts of the country, being more Catholic that have bigger celebrations. Carnaval can also be regarded as a rite of passage from darkness to light, from winter to summer: a fertility celebration, the first spring festival of the new year. The first day of Carnaval is six weeks before Easter Sunday.

In Germany Karneval (Carnaval) is a very old tradition which was originally celebrated to scare away winter spirits. After many months of frost, the people were tired of winter. To spook the winter spirits, people wore scary masks, sang and danced in the streets to welcome spring...



"It is that time of year again. The time of year when businesses and shops close, roads are closed off and when it is perfectly acceptable socially for grown men to get into the train dressed in bear and rabbit costumes.

The Dutch have a saying: 'Doe maar normaal, dan ben je al gek genoeg,' meaning be normal as you are crazy enough. However, this saying does not count during carnival season. Get ready for a lot of craziness!

The celebrations often involve a procession through the city and people dressed up in their silliest costumes. During carnival there is a (fake) mayor elected for the town and he or she is often part of the procession through the city. Towns often get a different name during carnival. For example, Eindhoven is known as Lampegat during this period, which can be quite confusing for people who are not aware of this transformation.

The Carnaval weekend is really about everyone getting together and having fun. The music and different beverages add to the festive mood and it is really one of the highlights of the year for people living in the South of the Netherlands. Many people look forward to the Carnaval parties all year long."

Article copied from www.undutchables.nl



Future Dates for carnival in The Netherlands (if you are lucky enough to be in the country at that time)

2024: Sunday 11 February to Tuesday 13 February

2025: Sunday 2 March to Tuesday 4 March

2026: Sunday 15 February to Tuesday 17 February

2027: Sunday 7 February to Tuesday 9 February

2028: Sunday 27 February to Tuesday 29 February (leap day!)

Thorn a women's stronghold

History

First, the region of Thorn was a swamp nearby the Roman road between Maastricht and Nijmegen. But the region had been drained and around 975, Bishop Ansfried of Utrecht founded a Benedictine nunnery. This monastery developed since the 12th century into a secular *stift* or convent. The principal of the *stift* was the woman who is the head of an abbey (abbess). She was assisted by a chapter of at most twenty ladies of the highest nobility.



Previously the abbess and the chapter were endowed with religious tasks but, since the 12th century, they served secular matters and formed the government of a truly sovereign miniature principality, the smallest independent state in the German Holy Roman Empire, approximately 250 x 250 metres. Besides Thorn, Ittervoort, Grathem, Baexem, Stramproy, Ell, Haler and Molenbeersel belonged to this principality. The French invasion by Napoleon eventually put an end to this female rule and historical girl power. The formal abolition in 1797 made an end to the existence of the abbess and the other noblewomen of the monastery fled their mini-state when the French took over. A tax was

introduced based on the number and size of the windows of the houses, the poor population decided to brick up their windows. The houses were painted white to hide these unsightly patches in the walls - also dramatically called 'scars of poverty' - creating the white hidden gem in Limburg we can still visit today.

A women's stronghold

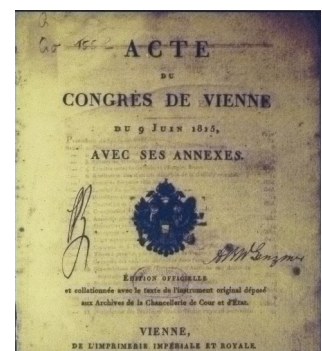
The white town of Thorn is located in the heart of the province of Limburg. It is known for its characteristic white-painted buildings and narrow streets that date back to various eras of Dutch history. The history of Thorn is rich and fascinating, spanning more than a thousand years. Thorn was an independent state for more than eight hundred years, where postmistresses led by a royal abbess ruled. Ever since the founding of the post, it has been clear that women played a major role, were their own bosses and did not allow themselves to be overruled by others.



Chapel under the Lindens

A little outside the centre of Thorn is the Chapel under the Lindens (Kapel onder de Linden). In 1673, Clara Elisabeth, Countess of Manderscheidt Blankenheim, canoness of Thorn State Abbey, had the chapel built just outside Thorn as a devotion to Mary. The chapel can still be visited today, more than 350 years later. The Chapel under the Lindens is open daily for prayer, lighting a candle or to take a break.

Thorn was first part of the department of Meuse-Inférieure, and after the Vienne Congress of 1814 -1815, when the Netherlands and the Southern Netherlands (approximately modern-day Belgium) became a united monarchy, the United Kingdom of the Netherlands, with the House of Orange-Nassau providing the king. ›



Thorn 'the white town'

Life Style

Enjoy the Burgundian life in the charming town of Thorn, in the municipal Maasgouw. After work, have a bite to eat at one of the cozy restaurants. Or just have a drink on a terrace. The almost 2,500 residents of Thorn are very proud of their white town.

The unique past clearly leaves its mark in the lovely streets of Maas cobblestones and the characteristic houses. Thorn also has a rich club life, has its own primary school and shops for daily shopping.



You don't have to go far to refuel in nature. Thorn, for example, borders De Grote Hegge, one of the largest fresh water lakes in Northern Europe. You can dive and swim here. There is also a bicycle bridge through the nature reserve.

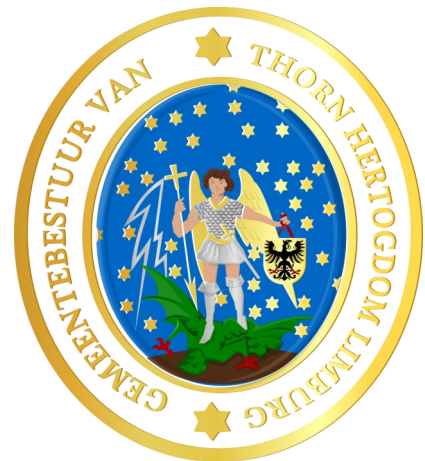
The unique past has left its mark on the spatial character of Thorn. The historic center has 105 national monuments. Many 17th and 18th century buildings are located around the Abbey Church and give Thorn an urban character. The monumental, urban allure motivated the then Ministers of Culture, Recreation and Social Work in 1973 to designate the historic core as a "protected cityscape".



Sint-Michaëlkerk



Plein



~ Articles sourced by PW from www.hartvanlimburg.nl/nl/; www.gemeentemaasgouw.nl/thorn

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Zwarte Kip Advocaat - \$23



CODE WORD PUZZLE

A **Codebreaker** is a crossword puzzle with no clues! Every letter of the alphabet is replaced by a number.

For these puzzles, **two or three** letters are revealed. Start with entering these throughout the puzzle, start to guess your first word or letter. Use a pencil to start, then if it does not workout, you can erase it and start again. Some letters, e.g. the letters E and A and S can occur more often than others e.g. the letters Q, X or Z.

Results of last month's Bonus TOP CODEWORD.

This puzzle was not a easy win and it was difficult to find the first three words.

But once the word: **Shrimp, Hussars and Embark** were found, the rest became much easier.

The letter codes for last month's Top Codebreaker were as follows:

A=1; B=10; C=21; D=23; E=24;
F=15; G=2; H=12; I=11; J=9;
K=14; L=6; M=16; N=17; O=20;
P=5; Q=7; R=3; S=25; T=22; U=8;
V=13; W=19; X=18; Y=26; Z=4.

Results of last month's Bonus BOTTOM CODEWORD.

This puzzle looked easy as the first word was a giveaway. But that was false hope. Then you had to find the words **Joint, Imp, Perjury, Birch or Elusive** before you were on your way.

The letter codes for last month's bottom Codebreaker were as follows:

A=24; B=17; C=2; D=7; E=9;
F=16; G=15; H=5; I=13; J=19;
K=22; L=14; M=12; N=25; O=18;
P=11; Q=3; R=4; S=8; T=6; U=10;
V=23; W=26; X=21; Y=20; Z=1.

Two Bonus Codeword Puzzles

4	26	1	11	17	8	10		24	5	9	14	22	26	1
26		5		19		20		3		15		26		3
13	17	8	24	1	20	26	26	6		2	26	7	5	20
3		17		9		25		6				17		9
20	17	8	10		16	5	20	26		5	7	4	5	18
24		9		2		18		24		7				5
9	23	15	17	20	19		24	17	25	17	8	17	22	11
		18		26		13		18		18		8		
4	21	3	17	8	9	3	13		12	5	13	5	18	9
21				16		18		23		24		18		3
3	13	3	14	5		22	21	15	10		12	5	5	20
9		19				16		3		6		10		4
9	19	3	9	21		5	8	4	21	17	18	3	24	3
17		16		15		20		14		18		8		9
9	18	5	15	22	21	9		9	11	19	1	22	26	19

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

A	N
B	O
C	P
D	Q
E	R
F	S
G	T
H	U
I	V
J	W
K	X
L	Y
M	Z

22	21	18	9	25		16	7	18	19	17	13	21	12	
9		21		4		17		21		2		25		14
5	21	6	20	21	26	4	13	9		5	5	4	23	4
22		20		5		8				21		6		25
9	7	9	5	21	26			25	9	6	20	21	9	23
13				19		11		9		20				13
7	4	15		10	25	20	1	1		9	18	17	12	16
		21				23		5				14		
23	17	13	21	1		2	5	9	4	15		19	17	26
9				21		5		8		19				7
26	25	21	24	24	5	9			12	17	23	23	17	19
5		19		24				3		2		4		4
9	19	19	20	21		11	20	15	9	2	17	8	9	3
7		9		19		20		21		5		21		13
	1	25	21	10	16	13	9	19		7	20	23	23	7

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

A	N
B	O
C	P
D	Q
E	R
F	S
G	T
H	U
I	V
J	W
K	X
L	Y
M	Z

Codeword and Sudoku Puzzles Page

3	21	4	20	5	25	21		20	17	18	14	22	21	11
21		21		14		13		9		21		7		16
24	7	16	11	6	25	7	5	12		16	2	18	20	5
11		24		21		22		10				16		22
20	7	22	16		8	20	3	21		8	16	1	1	19
5		4		16		5		25		7				25
22	16	24	20	15	15		18	25	16	22	19	18	14	2
		14		25		24		2		22		7		
17	16	23	9	7	25	20	16		18	21	7	18	25	21
20				16		5		5		24		18		13
25	20	23	4	22		7	9	19	13		17	19	22	4
12		16				5		23		22		5		20
2	26	14	16	11		4	7	9	21	19	5	7	17	6
7		1		19		21		21		18		5		20
18	24	21	22	21	13	22		22	7	7	25	12	20	22

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Sudoku Puzzles

The aim of the Sudoku Puzzle is to insert numbers 1 - 9 in the each row and column; each 3 x 3 box must also contain a complete set of numbers 1 - 9.

Sudoku 990 Easy Puzzle

	6							
8		1		3				2
9	3		5			6	4	
				1			6	9
2								5
4	1			8				
	2	8			7		5	6
5				6		1		8
							7	

Sudoku 990 Medium Puzzle

	2			5	3			7
4	6		2	7				
5					8	3		
	1		3					
		4				8		
					2		9	
		9	6					1
				3	1		7	5
1			8	2			6	

CODEWORD PUZZLE

A **Codebreaker** is a crossword puzzle with no clues! Every letter of the alphabet is replaced by a number. For this puzzle **two** letters are revealed. Start with entering these throughout the puzzle and then start to guess your first word or letter. Use a pencil to start, then if it does not work out, you can erase and start again.

Some letters, e.g. the letters E and A and S occur more often than others e.g. the letter X or Z.

To find the first three words of last month's Codebreaker was quite easy.

*The first 3 words I found were: **Attainable, Humanism and Wrongful.** Once those 3 words were found, it still was easy going.*

The letter codes for last month's Codebreaker were as follows:

A=21; B=11; C=1; D=12; E=14; F=4; G=23; H=22; I=13; J=3; K=16; L=5; M=8; N=10; O=2; P=19; Q=24; R=20; S=9; T=7; U=18; V=6; W=15; X=17; Y=26; Z=25.

Last month's Sudoku Easy 989 solution.

6	4	7	9	5	8	1	2	3
3	8	9	1	2	6	5	7	4
1	2	5	7	4	3	8	6	9
5	1	6	3	9	2	7	4	8
8	3	2	5	7	4	6	9	1
9	7	4	8	6	1	2	3	5
4	5	3	2	8	7	9	1	6
7	9	1	6	3	5	4	8	2
2	6	8	4	1	9	3	5	7

Last month's Sudoku Medium 989 solution.

6	9	7	4	3	1	2	8	5
3	5	8	9	6	2	4	7	1
2	1	4	7	8	5	6	9	3
4	2	1	6	9	8	5	3	7
5	6	9	2	7	3	8	1	4
8	7	3	1	5	4	9	6	2
9	3	2	8	4	7	1	5	6
1	8	5	3	2	6	7	4	9
7	4	6	5	1	9	3	2	8

Club Information & Links to Dutch Organisations

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Anthony Willinge
Honorary Consul

Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
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Email: care@cura-inhomecare.org.au
admin@cura-inhomecare.org.au
cvs@cura-inhomecare.org.au
Website: www.cura-inhomecare.org.au

Details how to become a member and Membership Application Forms can be obtained from our Website:

www.dutchclubwa.com
Membership application forms can also be asked for by Email: neerlandia@dutchclubwa.com

DISCLAIMER:

The views and opinions expressed within this magazine are those of the individual author or other information source and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Dutch Society Neerlandia or the Editor. All contributions are proofread for style and grammar. We reserve the right to reject, abridge or edit letters for linguistic, spelling, style and other literary errors.

Neerlandia ensures that the privacy of our Members details are maintained and upheld at all times and not disclosed or sold to any other organisation. We are committed to protect your personal information.

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Email: arnold.stroobach@gmail.com

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Contact: Machiel van der Stelt 0413 718 373
Contact: Lianna Parker 0437 629 635

THURSDAY NIGHT CARD CLUB

At RDC: Thursdays 7pm-11pm
Contact: Jan Zwartkruis 0434 920 252
Email: terjohnnz@gmail.com

THE SUNDAY KLAVERJAS DRIVES

At RDC 1st Sunday of the month
From: 10.30am-2.30pm
Doors open for Coffee: 10.30am
Contact: Jan Zwartkruis 0434 920 252
Email: terjohnnz@gmail.com

NEERLANDIA SENIORS' CLUB

At RDC Every second Thursday 10am-3pm
Contact: Jan Zwartkruis 0434 920 252
Email: terjohnnz@gmail.com

NEERLANDIA BINGO

At RDC Every second Wednesday 11am-2pm
Contact: Jan Zwartkruis 0434 920 252
Email: terjohnnz@gmail.com

THE DUTCH SINGERS

At Windmills Sports Club
Saturday mornings from: 10am-12pm
Contact: Alida Reitzenstein 0417 994 813
Email: alreitzenstein@iinet.net.au

END OF MONTH BORREL

Last Friday of the month from: 6pm-9pm
At Lake Monger Recreation Club
Contact: Machiel van der Stelt 0413 718 373

NEERLANDIA JUNIORS' CLUB

Contact: Machiel van der Stelt 0413 718 373
Email: mvdstelt@gmail.com

THE DUTCH CLOG DANCERS

For Nursing Home performances only
Contact: Hanny Kamps 9457 2548

SNBN: Stichting Nederlanders Buiten Nederland

Email: ellysnbn@gmail.com

MORLEY WINDMILLS SPORTS CLUB

Contact: John Castrilli 0416 816 561

Advertising rates for this Magazine:

Full page	\$ 200 inclusive GST
Half page	\$ 100 inclusive GST
Quarter page	\$ 75 inclusive GST
Eighth page	\$ 50 inclusive GST

DEADLINES:

Contributions to the Neerlandia magazine should be in the Editor's hands no later than the 12th of each month and should bear the author's name and address. Anonymous letters will not be published and will be immediately threaded instead.

Advertisers wanting to insert or change or re-edit their advertisements are also subject to these conditions.

Anything received beyond the 12th of the month may not be considered for inclusion until the next edition, except by the Editors explicit approval. Due to printing methodology no proof reader's copy can be provided and no responsibility is taken for occasional typographical errors, omissions and minor inaccuracies.

